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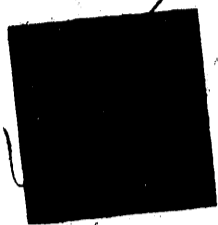
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EASTERN

F.O.
371



1947

PALESTINE

File No. 48

pp. 2248 - 2667

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E 2272

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<p>65 1947</p>		<p>2</p>
<p>65 31</p>		<p>2</p>
<p>E 2243/48/C.</p>		<p>1</p>
<p>COB (4) 3Yⁿ 41Q Min 1</p>		<p>2</p>
<p>Dated 4 March Received 14 March</p>		<p>3</p>
<p>Last Paper. E2242</p>		<p>4</p>
<p>References.</p>		<p>5</p>
<p>(Print.)</p>		<p>6</p>
<p>(How disposed of.)</p>		<p>7</p>
<p>(Action completed.) 2F 21/3</p>		<p>8</p>
<p>(Index.) W.H.</p>		<p>9</p>
<p>Next Paper. E2244</p>		<p>10</p>

Palentine

E2243 /G
15 MAR 1947

EASTERN

Illegal immigration

See noted position regarding transport of illegal immigrants from Palestine to Cyprus.

(Minutes.)

Mr Beatty

B.L. Beatty
Mar. 17

H.B. 207
13

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COS (47) 37th Mtg E.g. 7th March Register 3

1. TRANSPORT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM PALESTINE TO CYPRUS

E2273

(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(47) 32nd Mtg. Min. 7)

SIR RHODERICK MCGRIGOR said that the latest reports^{AR 1947} on sailings of ships carrying illegal immigrants to Palestine indicated that up to 8,000 illegal immigrants a month might attempt to reach Palestinian shores. It was unlikely that arrivals would be evenly spaced throughout the months, and he thought that the present shipping available for the transport of illegal immigrants from Palestine to Cyprus, namely, a capacity of about 2,000, might prove to be inadequate to deal with such numbers. The Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East, presumably received all reports available in London on the sailing of illegal immigrants for Palestine, and he thought they might have to request authority to retain a further cargo ship, even when the four ex corvettes were all available. He suggested that no action be taken until the Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East, raised the question.

SIR FRANK SIMPSON said that the arrival of illegal immigrants in such numbers would raise accommodation difficulties in Cyprus. The present accommodation in Cyprus was sufficient for about 20,000 illegal immigrants, and there were already approximately 11,000 in the Island. He was not aware of any arrangements made by the Colonial Office for further accommodation for illegal immigrants elsewhere. He said the War Office would undertake to examine the present position regarding accommodation in Cyprus for illegal immigrants transported from Palestine, and he would raise the matter again if necessary, at a later date.

THE COMMITTEE:

- (a) Took note of the statement by the Vice Chief of Naval Staff, and agreed that no action need be taken until the Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East, raised the matter.
- (b) Took note that the War Office would examine the position regarding the accommodation available in Cyprus for illegal immigrants transported from Palestine.

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<p>67 1947 31</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E2324/G 4</p>
<p>E 2324 /48/G. COB (4Y) 38th HQ Hins dated 12 March Received 14 March</p>	<p>Illegal immigration Refs to COB (4Y) 38th HQ Min 1 (E2273/48/G) Cite agreed on views to be presented at meeting of Defence Committee.</p>	
<p>Last Paper. E2274</p>	<p>(Minutes.) The defence comm. went into all this in greater detail</p>	
<p>References.</p>	<p>Services Liaison Dept. H.S. Beirnt Mar. 19 1/3</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p>	<p>19/3</p>	
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<p>(Action completed.) 2/22/3</p>	<p>(Index.) 1/4</p>	
<p>Next Paper. E2390</p>		

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17. MAR 1947

5. PALESTINE - ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ^{E 200 (47) 38th Mtg 7. 12/3 5}
(Previous Reference: C.O.S. (47) 37th Mtg. Min. 1)

THE COMMITTEE had before them a minute^x by the Secretary covering copies of telegrams from the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, concerning illegal immigration into Palestine. *Eastern*

E2324

This subject was to be considered at a meeting of the Defence Committee to be held later that morning.

18 MAR 1947

SIR RHODERICK MCGRIGOR referred to a telegram[@] from the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, attached to the Secretary's minute, and said that the Admiralty had asked the Commander-in-Chief to clarify the statement in paragraph 1 that a ship, No. 176, is now being fitted out at Marseilles with a capacity of 6,000 tons. The Admiralty thought that the ship of 6,000 tons was, in fact, at Taranto, but that No. 176 a different ship with a capacity of 1,700 tons was at Marseilles. Nevertheless the general position reported by the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, remained as stated in his telegrams.

LORD MONTGOMERY said in view of the information reported by the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, and the High Commissioner for Palestine, it was important to obtain a decision from His Majesty's Government as to whether or not the policy to prevent illegal immigration into Palestine was to continue. In taking such a decision

x COS. 283/7
@ No. C31823/March
/ No. 515

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the Defence Committee would want to know whether the Services would be able to carry out such a policy. So far as the Army was concerned, this could be done, at the expense of other commitments.

SIR RHODERICK MCGRIGOR said that as the Royal Navy were not empowered to take any action against ships carrying illegal immigrants outside a three mile limit from Palestine, it was not possible to ensure that no such ships get ashore. The present position whereby illegal immigrant ships were intercepted within the three mile limit and prevented from going ashore, could be continued, but a few might beach themselves before illegal immigrants could be taken off for trans-shipment elsewhere.

If it became necessary to transport illegal immigrants to places other than Cyprus, for example, East Africa, the distances involved would increase the shipping and naval escorts required. If illegal immigrants had to be transported to East Africa, the round trip would take about a month, and naval escorts could only be provided as far as the Suez Canal. Thereafter, it would be necessary to rely on guards placed on board ships carrying illegal immigrants.

LORD TEDDER said that so far as the Royal Air Force was concerned, the necessary aircraft for interception could be made available at the expense of commitments elsewhere. He agreed that the Chiefs of Staff should advise His Majesty's Government that from the military point of view the implications of continuing a policy to prevent illegal immigration into Palestine could be dealt with, providing it was understood that the extra forces could be made available at the expense of commitments elsewhere, and that the extra accommodation and shipping was found.

There was general agreement with this view.

THE COMMITTEE:

Agreed to present their views on the above lines at the meeting of the Defence Committee to be held later that morning.

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E

E 2330
18 MAR

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 2330/48/31

FROM

F. D. Minute

No.

Mr Beeley

Dated

14 Mar 1947

Received in Registry

18 Mar 1947

Illegal Immigration, and U.N.

Encloses minute by Mr. Pictor Webb stating that Dept will speak to Marshall & Morrison asking them to prevent collection of funds in USA for use of illegal immigrants, we are also to draft a note to Sec Gen of U.N. appealing to all member nations to take precautions to prevent illegal immigration pointing out that it is proper to refer Palestine to U.N.

(Minutes.)

Last Paper.

2324

References.

2329/2329/31

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

JEM 29/5

(Index)

9/14/48

Next Paper.

2333

See minutes within

H.B. 18/3

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E 2330

18 MAR

J.N. Department.

The attached sheet contains part of a list of proposals adopted ~~after~~ by the Defence Committee on March 12th, after a discussion on Jewish illegal immigration into Palestine. Please see no. 5, on which we should like your comments.

I suppose it would be advisable to wait, before taking this step, until Sir A. Badoen has formally requested the Secretary General to place Palestine on the Assembly agenda.

H. Bealey 14/3

/Mr.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Minutes.

K Entered
9

Mr. Bentley.

The proposed approach to the Secretary General can do no harm but it seems doubtful whether it will do much good. I doubt that his authority is not such that a mere appeal by him would suffice to deter those for whom it is a matter of policy to encourage the movement of Jews.

Para. 2. I agree.

H. J. [unclear] 14/3
P. [unclear] 14/3

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4. We are to ask the Secretary of State in Moscow to make a further approach to Marshall, pleading with him to restrain the collection of funds in the U.S.A. for illegal immigration.

5. We are to draft a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations appealing to all Member States to take strictest precautions to prevent illegal immigration and pointing out that it is proposed to submit the question of Palestine to the United Nations, but that it is however in a sense subjudice and that this illegal immigration is designed to render insuperable the difficulties which the United Nations is prepared to consider.

(Signed) Hector McNeil.

12th March, 1947.

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E 2333

1947

PALESTINE

18 MAR

Registry
Number

E2333/48/31

FROM

P.O.

No.

bound.

Dated

Received
in Registry

18, Mar 1947

Illegal Immigration Situation.

By-pass til 116 of Mar 12,
transmitting weekly situation report
for period 7. Mar to 12, Mar.Last Paper.
(228/48/11)

2330

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

2)	By-pass of	118	14/3
3)	-	132	22/3
4)	"	147	27/3
5)	-	165	14/4
6)	-	175	12/4
7)	-	199	21/4
8)	-	212	28/4
9)	-	221	5/5
10)	-	237	12/5

13, Mar 18

15, Mar 27

(Action
completed.)

J. E. Morris

(Index.)

9/4/48

Next Paper.

E2390

32003 F.O.P

8/13, May 5

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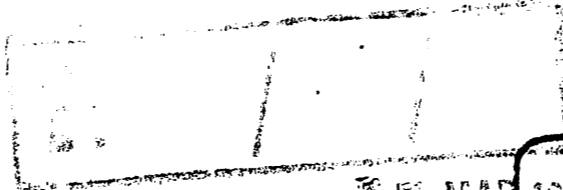
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INWARD TELEGRAM

12

Code



18 MAR 1947
E 2333
18 MAR

FROM CYPRUS (Acting Governor)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 12th March, 1947.

R. 12th " " 18.20 hrs.

No. 116

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to High Commissioner for Palestine,
No. 103.

Situation Report 7th March to 12th March.

(a) Strength

Increase of 226 men, 293 women and 8 children arrived by EMPIRE COMFORT 2nd March and 430 men, 406 women and 24 children arrived by OCEAN VIGOUR 6th March. Both parties were from immigrant ship HAIM ARLOSOROFF. On 10th March, 379 men, (?197) women and 28 children arrived by EMPIRE SHELTER and EMPIRE REST from immigrant ship ABRIL. In addition, there were 9 births. Total strength 10,607.

(b) General

(1) An incident occurred in Xylotymbou on 3rd March when children broke through the wires to join with new intake in quarantine in neighbouring Camp. Adults assisted in restoring order.

(2) At Caraclos on 6th March, 200 to 300 immigrants broke out in order to bathe in the sea. They later returned quietly to Camp.

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(3) Considerable discontent has been caused by delay in despatch of usual party of 750 to Athlit against release February - March.

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" " (M.O.4.)	- Lt.Col. J.G. Atkinson.
" " (M.I.5.)	- Lt.Col. W. Gore.
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" "	- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
" " Research Dept.	- Mr. Beith.
Ministry of Defence	- Air Commodore K.C. Buss.
" " "	- Private Secretary.
" " "	- Sir Henry Wilson Smith.
M.I.5.	- Defence Registry.
Dominions Office	- Mr. J.C. Robertson.
Ministry of Transport	- Private Secretary.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

14

PW

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM CYPRUS (Acting Governor)

INDEXED

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 14th March, 1947.

R. 14th " " 11.20 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 118 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to High Commissioner for Palestine,
No. 105.

Illegal immigrant Jews.

Following is preliminary military report of
the incident at Xylotymbou Camp.

"About 16.45 hours 12th March, as a protest
against the arrest of two escaped illegal immigrants,
about 200 demonstrated in the road between Camps 64
and 65 at Xylotymbou whilst being moved between the
camps. This movement is permitted (?at omitted)
definite time daily. In spite of repeated warnings,
they refused to return to their camps and stoned the
guards. Eventually, fire had to be opened and five
illegal Jew immigrants were wounded."

2. Understand that Court of Enquiry has been
set up and will furnish fuller report later. No
public mention has yet been made locally concerning
Court of Inquiry.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

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INDEXED

2333 48 21

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM CYPRUS (O.A.G.)

TO S. OF S. COLONIES.

D. 22nd March, 1947.

R. 22nd " " 15.10 hrs.

No. 132 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.

Repeated to High Commissioner for Palestine, No. 129.

Situation report 13th March to 18th March.

(a) Strength.

Increases 544 men and 153 women arrived by EMPIRE RIVAL 14th March and 68 men 66 women and 4 children by EMPIRE SHELTER 15th March, all from immigrant ship SUSANNAH. In addition there were five births.

Decreases 748 left on EMPIRE RIVAL 15th March for Athlit against February-March quota, together with two SIRINA survivors unable to travel on 19th February and one legal immigrant. Total 10,696.

(b) General.

(i) Issue of detention order for Jews on SUSANNAH is delayed while officers of Palestine Government screen personnel to exclude persons having bona fide claim to residence in Palestine.

(ii) The incident at Xylotymbou on 12th March when five immigrants were wounded has been reported separately.

(iii) Three male immigrants who escaped from Xylotymbou on 5th March were sentenced by Larnaca District Court to one month imprisonment.

(iv)

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(iv) One male immigrant was arrested attempting to leave the camp with an A.J.D.C. and Jewish Agency temporary pass and was fined by Famagusta District Court. Another is held in custody for the same offence.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

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Code

FROM CYPRUS (Lord Winster)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

INDEXED

D. 27th March, 1947.

R. 27th " " 20.20 hrs.

No. 147 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to High Commissioner for Palestine,
No. 145.

Situation report 19th March to 27th March.

(a) Strength Return

Increases 9 births

Decreases 2 deaths, an infant the day after
birth and its mother ten days later from complications
following caesarean operation.

Total strength 10,703

(b) General.

A French female journalist, Rachel Cheigam, who
arrived 6th March, declared herself 16th March and an
American male journalist Marvin Liebman, who arrived
10th March, declared himself 20th March. Arrangements
are being made for both to leave. Jacques Alexandre,
Pathe News Cameraman, had a poor reception on his visit
to Caraclos 18th March and decided not to proceed to
Xylotymbou. Screening of (corrupt group ?800) of the
arrivals from the SUSANNAH is complete and 375, found to
be residents of Palestine, have sailed for Palestine.
On 14th March a small boat not of local construction was
found washed ashore on the beach near Famagusta. It
contained three shirts filled with sand for ballast and bore
letters in Hebrew characters.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

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2333 / 48 / 31

PW

Cypher (O.T.P.) and Code

9 APR 1947

FROM CYPRUS (Lord Winster)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

INDEXED

D. 4th April, 1947.

R. 4th " " 16.50 hrs.

No. 165 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.

Repeated to the High Commissioner, Palestine, No. 165.

Cypher

Situation Report 28th March to 3rd April.

(a) Strength increase

4 births.

On 1st April, 540 men, 343 women and 25 children
arrived on OCEAN VIGOUR and 493 men and 173 women on EMPIRE
RIVAL.

Decrease.

575 legal residents of Palestine and 2 Journalists
referred to in (your telegram) No. 147 (145 to Palestine),
791 left on 2nd April on EMPIRE RIVAL, comprising 750 March-
April quota, 34 wives or minor children of (group omitted)
from Knesseth Israel detained in Palestine, 4 to complete
February-March quota, 1 legal immigrant, 1 BIRMA survivor
who has been sick, and 1 serious hospital case. Total 11,113.

(b) General.

(1) Announcement from the High Commissioner of
Palestine that it would not be possible to receive the usual
batch of 750 against March-April quota until after 15th April
produced immediate depression and unrest. When OCEAN VIGOUR
arrived 1st April, situation became critical immigrants having
received messages from athlit that accommodation was available.
/The

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The camp leader declared that, if vessel sailed without quota, there would be rioting. The probability of trouble was emphasised by break-out from camp, a certain number refusing to go back until definite answer was given. Force was not used and they were ultimately persuaded to return. The situation was reported to Palestine and, when notification of reversing of decision received on following day, order and co-operation were restored. Situation is now normal.

(ii) At 7 a.m. on 2nd April, an explosion occurred in OCEAN VIGOUR believed due to Limpet. A man was seen swimming away but although fired on, made away. A hole 6 feet by 3 was blown in starboard quarter but repairs are being effected and ship is due to sail 3rd April. An arrest was made later in the day by Civil Authorities. Timing of the incident suggests that it may not be unconnected with (i) above.

(iii) Mr. J.R. Smith, Administrative Officer, Palestine, arrived on 30th March to assume duties of Civil Administration Officer vice Aldridge.

(iv) Clifton Daniels, New York Times correspondent Code visited the Camp on 28th March.

(c) Welfare.

On 23rd March, Mr. Laub A.J.D.C. left for Palestine to meet Mr. Passman, who had returned from Europe, and Rabbi Heilpern to make arrangements for the Passover.

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- Chief of Air Staff.
- Sir N. Brook.
- Private Secretary.
- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
- Mr. Beith.
- Private Secretary.
- Sir Henry Wilson Smith.
- Defence Registry.
- Mr. J.G. Robertson.
- Private Secretary.
- Private Secretary.
- Air Commodore K.S. Duns.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61803**

2333 / 4871 PW 23
15 APR 1947

INWARD TELEGRAM

INDEXED

This document must be paraphrased if the communication of its contents to any person outside Government Service is authorised.

Cypher

FROM CYPRUS (Lord Winster)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 12th April, 1947.

R. 12th " " 19.45 hrs.

No. 175 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to High Commissioner Palestine,
No. 172.

Situation Report 4th to 11th April.

(a) Strength. Increase of 4 births, total 11,132.

(b) General.

- (i) OCEAN VIGOUR which was sabotaged sailed 4th April.
- (ii) Complaints about mishandling and riffling of baggage have been received from arrivals on that ship.
- (iii) Large contingent of visitors from Palestine arrived for the Passover celebration, including Mr. Ben Zvi, President of Vaad Leumi, press and broadcast representatives and two theatrical entertainers.
- (iv) Passover meal on the night of 4th April was eaten at Caracolos in the traditional manner, except by the new arrivals who either from lack of time or of initiative had not made the necessary preparations. Instead they danced the "Horra" and other Palestinian dances around blazing log fire. Later a meeting was held at which the visitors spoke. Attendance was not up to expectations and the opening speeches seemed to arouse little interest.

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"	-	Private Secretary
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Cypher

FROM CYPRUS (Lord Winster)

TO S. OF S. COLONIES.

E2333 / 48 / 71

D. 21st April, 1947.
R. 22nd " " "

07.00 hrs.

28 APR 1947

No. 199

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to High Commissioner for Palestine,
No. 192.

Illegal Jewish Immigrants.

Situation report 12th April to 21st April.

(a) Strength.

Increases: On 16th April 891 men 661 women and 33 children arrived in the EMPIRE SEYCHELLES, = (2 corrupt groups) and LIFE GUARD. On 17th April 473 men and 331 (? group omitted) arrived EMPIRE SEYCHELLES and = (corrupt group) and on 18th April 82 men and 67 women on EMPIRE LIFE GUARD. All were from ship THEODORE HERZL. There were 13 births. Total 13,668.

(b) General:

Refusal of 375 to embark 18th April and subsequent incidents and hunger strike at Caraolos have been reported separately. The hunger strike spread to Xylotymbou on Saturday, all the inmates of which, except for intake from THEODORE HERZL, are now participating. At Caraolos all except one camp of the area have been destroyed.

/This

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This area was pillaged, but goods were subsequently returned.

(c) Restlessness was evident before the recent trouble about quota arose. On 11th April some 500 broke out through wire to swim. Four rounds were fired and swimmers returned. Camp leaders were told that routine of bathing would be stopped if further disorders occurred.

(d) In Famagusta Court two immigrants picked up by a naval patrol from a buoy in the sea off Caracolos on 2nd April, date of sabotage of OCREAN VIGOUR, were fined £10 (sterling) with option of three months imprisonment for contravention of Section IX (i) of Illegal Immigrant Laws. Rabbi Heilpern paid the fines. A third was discharged for lack of evidence.

(e) Press.

Lee McGardell, representative of the Baltimore Sun, visited Caracolos and Xylotymbou on 10th April and Edward Klausen of Danish Politiken visited Caracolos 11th April.

* Corrections being obtained.

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- " " "
- " " "
- M.I.5.
- Ministry of Transport
- Foreign Office (Research Dept.)
- P.S. to Prime Minister.
- Private Secretary
- Private Secretary
- First Sea Lord.
- Mr. G.C.B.Dodds.
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INWARD TELEGRAM
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Cypher

2333 48 21

FROM CYPRUS (Lord Winster)

5 April 1947

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 28th April, 1947.

R. 28th " " 20.00 hrs.

No. 212

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to High Commissioner for Palestine, No. 204.

Situation Report 21st April to 28th April.

(a) Strength

Increases. On 24th April 486 men, 273 women, 2 children arrived EMPIRE COMFORT and LIFEGUARD. There were 7 births.

Decreases. 1 man shot in demonstration 18th April and 1 baby died 14th April. Total 14,434.

(b) General

(i) Following calling off of hunger strike reported separately, situation at camps has been quiet, but not normal. Administration has been completely disorganised and future reactions are impossible to assess.

(ii) Daniel Oliver, American Quaker correspondent reputed to be anxious to combat anti-British propaganda in America, arrived on 17th April and visited camps.

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(iii) Rabbi Shlesinger of Agudat Israel arrived unannounced 31st April.

(iv) Moshe Kolodny, of the Jewish Agency Executive, has been visiting camps.

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"	- Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.
" (M.O.4.)	- Lt. Col. W. Gore.
" (M.I.3.)	- Private Secretary.
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Ministry of Transport	- Private Secretary.
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FO 371 / 61803

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Cypher

FROM CYPRUS (Lord Winston)

TO S. OF S. COLONIES.

E 2533 / 48 / 71
9 MAY 1947

D. 5th May, 1947.
R. 6th " " 07.00 hrs.

No. 221 Secret

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to High Commissioner for Palestine, No. 216

Situation report 29th April to 5th May.

(a) Strength.

Increases one birth, total 14,435.

(b) General.

(i) I have reported separately the escape from custody on 26th April of suspected saboteur of the OCEAN VIGOUR.

(ii) Some friction occurred between the military authorities and A.J.D.C., latter having been subjected to search after they had been detected carrying uncensored immigrants mail. The differences have, however, been smoothed out.

(iii) Normal relations between camp staff and Central Committee were restored on 30th April.

(iv) Camp staff re-entered Caracoles camps on 1st May, having stayed outside at the request of the Central Committee which was apprehensive of isolated incidents. Administrative installations will, however, remain in present site outside the camps. Administrative /installations

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installations at Xylotymbou have always been outside and the camp staff remained outside for period of unrest only.

(v) A scheme for extended occupational training in camps has been submitted to the District Commissioner by A.J.D.G. and allied organisations, who are prepared to put up £(sterling) 10,000 to finance it.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61803**

INWARD TELEGRAM

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MW

Code

2333 48 71

10 MAY 1947

FROM CYPRUS (Lord Winster)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

INDEXED

D. 12th May, 1947.

R. 12th " " 23.00 hrs.

No. 237 Secret.

Addressed to S. of S.

Repeated to High Commissioner for Palestine, No. 224

Situation Report 6th May to 12th May.

(a) Strength

Increase 1 birth total strength 14,436.

(b) General

(i) When, as part of reorganisation, a camp at Caracolos was cleared of inmates it was found to be in ruinous condition. As it had recently been renovated, the District Commander has suspended privileges in all camps as disciplinary measure.

(ii) The Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem visited camps on 5th May.

(c) Security.

Ruth Tannenbaum, an A.J.D.C. Nurse, has been charged before court of aiding OCEAN VIGOUR saboteur escape by sending to him hacksaw concealed in book. She has been remanded on bail.

(d) Welfare.

(1) Moshe Brachman, Director of Palestine Committee of Cyprus Detainees, arrived 7th May for five day tour of camps in connection with occupational project report in (b) (v) of last Situation Report.

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(2) In this connection, A.J.D.C. plan to invite psychiatric team of Paul Friedman, David Wechsler, Sadie Oppenheim and Mildred Buchwahrer to visit camps June; arrangements have been made apparently with A.J.D.C. New York.

(3) Mail service has been instituted between camps at Carallos and Xylotymbou.

(c) Press.

British journalist Maurice Pearlman, purporting to represent "Illustrated", declared himself on 6th May, and was released; he had arrived with THEODORE HERZL party 16th April.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Palestine</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EASTERN</p>		<p>E2390 /G</p> <p style="text-align: right;">34</p>
<p>68</p> <p>E 2390 /48/G</p> <p>Moscow</p> <p>169</p> <p>Dated 18 March</p> <p>Received 19 March</p>	<p>Palestine: <u>Illegal immigration</u></p> <p>Refe to F.O. 61 98 (E2248/48/G)</p> <p>States that Lord Sowerchapel should take up the matter with State Dept</p>	
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>E2324</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>Papers are in action.</p>	
<p>References.</p> <p>3535/48/21</p>	<p>Mr Bealey #B.29/3</p> <p>Copy Co. (Mr Higham)</p> <p>H.S. Beint Mar. 20</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p>	<p>RG</p> <p>V20/3</p>	
<p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>8)C.O</p> <p>✓ 22 March</p>		
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>2/27/3</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>WPH.</p>	
<p>Next Paper.</p> <p>E 2445</p>		

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E

Secret 2390

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

FROM MOSCOW TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to Council of Foreign Ministers)

No. 169

D. 3.55p.m. 18th March, 1947.

18th March, 1947.

R. 6.45 p.m. 18th March, 1947.

Repeated to : Washington

IMMEDIATE
TOP SECRET

MMMMM

Your telegram No. 98. *ETs*

I will do my best to find some opportunity to speak to Marshall on this point but Lord Inverchapel should also take it up immediately with the State Department. He should enquire what action the United States Government intend to take to put an end to this unprecedented situation in which United States nationals are doing everything in their power to prevent a friendly Government carrying out a mandate entrusted to it by international agreement. In doing so he should call attention to the outrageous statements quoted in paragraph 4 of your telegram under reference.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington as my telegram No. 8.

[Repeated to Washington.]

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FO 371 / 61803

<p>69</p> <p>E 2445/48/C³¹</p> <p>Sir N. Charles Rome 60+</p> <p>Dated 19 March Received 20 March</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E 2445 / G</p> <p>36</p>
	<p>Illegal immigration</p> <p>Ref to F.O. 586 (E 2445/48/C)</p> <p>Report that note is being addressed to Italian Govt.</p>	
<p>Last Paper.</p> <p>E 2390</p>	<p>(Minutes.)</p> <p>See within</p> <p>1. Rome 665</p> <p>20 March.</p>	
<p>References.</p>	<p>H.M. Ambassador has suspended action on our telegram No. 586 and we must now send him further instructions amending the first ones. We should not now mention the "Lucia", which has been located by M.I. 5. at Plymouth. At the same time we can take into account the point made by Rome in this telegram. There is certainly no object in threatening to return illegal immigrants to Italy unless we are prepared to carry out the threat. This would involve landing the Jews forcibly on Italian soil, either under the general powers of the Allied military authorities under the armistice or as an act of <u>force majeure</u>.</p>	
<p>(Print.)</p>	<p>If it is felt that the advantages of carrying out this threat outweigh the disadvantages as regards our relations with the Italian Government, I should think it would be simplest to adopt the second of the two courses mentioned above, which would not involve consultation with the Americans. If not, we should have to send Sir N. Charles instructions similar to those we have sent to Mr. Duff Cooper, i.e. that he should request the Italian Government to receive back illegal immigrants. This</p>	
<p>(How disposed of.)</p> <p>Tel Rome 651 24 March</p> <p>Rpid W'ion 348 Saw BHEO 100 " Paris 711 " Belgrade 152 " Bucharest 14 " Athens 70 " Stockholm 19 " ✓ Brussels 84 "</p>	<p>Western Dept. is the course I would suggest. Draft tel. herewith</p> <p>Mr Evans 22/3</p> <p>J.G.S. Beith (J.G.S. Beith)</p> <p>21st March, 1947.</p>	
<p>(Action completed.)</p> <p>25/3</p>	<p>(Index.)</p> <p>W.H.</p>	<p>I should prefer to say that "we shall have to insist on Italian Govt. taking these people back. R.V. 24.3. P.T.O.</p>
<p>Next Paper.</p> <p>E 2632 (E 2905)</p>	<p>2888 F.O.P.</p>	

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Seen again by Western Dept.
who agreed to amended ending
Tel. sent 13 Mar. 24

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E

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FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE. 20 MAR 1947

Sir N. Charles. D. 7.50 p.m. 19th March 1947.
No. 664.
19th March 1947. R. 10.20 p.m. 19th March 1947.

Repeated to: Washington and
Paris.

W:W:W:W:W

IMMEDIATE.

SECRET.

Your telegram No. 586.

Illegal Jewish Immigration.

I am at once addressing a note to the Italian Government as instructed. In doing so however I have omitted the threat contained in penultimate sentence of your telegram under reference as I do not understand how the threat would be implemented and I should certainly be questioned on the point. Was it your intention to make use of general powers of Allied Military Authorities under the Armistice? In that event I should like to be certain before I make this threat that the Combined Chiefs of Staff are prepared to instruct Acting SACMED (who is an American General) accordingly and that necessary forces are still available. I note that no such threat is being made to the French Government.

Foreign Office please repeat to Washington and Paris as my telegrams Nos. 127 and 49 respectively.

[Repeated Washington and Paris.]

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39

E b/w

EDWARDS
20

En Clair

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM ROME TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir N. Charles
No. 665
20th March 1947.

D. 9.02 a.m. 20th March 1947

R. 10;25 a.m. 20th March 1947

YYYYYY

MOST IMMEDIATE

elg.

My telegram No. 664 was sent in error.

In view of your telegram No. 604 no action has
been taken on your telegram No. 586

E/g.

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Reference: **FO 371** / 61803

Registry
No. E 2445/48/G

J. G. S. B.

Draft.
H. M. Ambassador,
Rome.

Telegram.

No. 651

Dated March 22

Repeat Saving
to:

- Washington 347 SAV
- B. M. E. C. 100 SAV
- Paris 711 SAV
- Belgrade 152 SAV
- Bucharest 14 SAV
- Athens 70 SAV
- Stockholm 79 SAV
- Brussels 84 SAV

Cabinet Distr.
Cypher

Western Dept. 1/3
first

Mrs. Beine
Mar 21
Mar 21/3

March, 1947.

Despatched 150

pp in aching 25/3
space attached M. / 3

My telegram No. 586 [of March 15th.
Jewish illegal immigration].

Please cancel final sentences of
each paragraph dealing with the "Lucia",
which is not in an Italian port. You
should now make general representations
to the Italian Government in the terms
outlined in my telegram under reference.

2. As regards the point made in your
telegram No. 664 [of March 19th], I agree
that you should not threaten that illegal
immigrants from Italy arriving in
Palestine will be returned whence they
came. You should, however inform the
Italian Government that, in the case of
further arrivals from Italy, we shall
~~have to insist on Italian Govt.~~

~~compelled to request them to take these~~
people back. taking these people
back.

[App'd by Sir R. Howe]
Mar. 24

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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E. 2445/48/G.
Cypher/OTP.

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ROME

No. 651.

D. 1.50.p.m. March 25th, 1947.

March 24th, 1947.

Repeated saving to Washington No. 347,
B.M.E.O. Cairo No. 100,
Paris No. 711,
Belgrade No. 152,
Bucharest No. 14,
Stockholm No. 19,
Brussels No. 84,
Athens No. 70.
-----oo-----

My telegram No. 586 [of March 15th: Jewish illegal immigration].

Please cancel final sentences of each paragraph dealing with the "Lucia", which is not in an Italian port. You should now make general representations to the Italian Government in the terms outlined in my telegram under reference.

2. As regards the point made in your telegram No. 664 [of March 19th], I agree that you should not threaten that illegal immigrants from Italy arriving in Palestine will be returned whence they came. You should, however, inform the Italian Government that, in the case of further arrivals from Italy, we shall have to insist on Italian Government taking these people back.

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E 2493

1947

PALESTINE

22

Registry Number

E 2493/48/31

FROM

P.A.

No.

M. Beith

Dated

Kindray

Received in Registry

19 March 1947
22

Illegal Immigration.
M. Beith Kindray, asked Dept if he is satisfied that U.N.R.R.A. is not being used as a cover for organisation of Illegal Immigration; M. Beith I am satisfied that U.N.R.R.A. as a whole is not being used as a cover for organisation of Illegal Immigration.

Last Paper.

2445

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

The second half of the reply was reserved by the Mps for Supplementaries and not used

D.S. Sims
Mar 24

Supply & Relief Dept see
25 Mar 25

[Signature]
V. 4/5

In P.P. aft from D. Smith B.O. to Clerk at table, House of Commons. 17/3

In P.P. J. Hingham B.O. to M. Beith 76021/PAL
17/3. 147.
25 Mar 26

(Action completed.)

[Signature] 27/5

(Index.)

[Signature] 27/5

Next Paper.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61803

DRAFT REPLY.

To: Mr. Martin Lindsay.
3.

March 18th, 1947.

MS
me 18.

Substantiated

MM
18/3

I am satisfied that the U.N.R.R.A organization as a whole is not being used as a cover for the organization of illegal immigration to Palestine. ^U At the same time there is little doubt that U.N.R.R.A supplies have ^{occasionally} been used to clothe and feed ~~Jews~~ ^{Jewish refugees} who ^{subsequently} eventually went to Palestine as illegal immigrants. ~~and to provision illegal immigrant ships.~~ ^{of course} It is impossible ^{to guarantee} to establish ^{in every case} ^{that} ^{the} ^{existence} ^{of} ^{facilities} granted by U.N.R.R.A. ^{has} represented bona fide relief to ^{bona fide} ^{refugees.} Jewish displaced persons.

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With the Compliments of the Private
Secretary to the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Colonial Office, Downing Street, S.W.1.

17th March, 1947.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61803

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46

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

17th March, 1947.

Dear Sir,

I write to say that it has been decided that the Minister of State (Foreign Office) should reply to Mr. Martin Lindsay's question addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for Wednesday next regarding the use of U.N.R.R.A. as a cover for the organisation of illegal immigrants to Palestine.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) D. Smith.

Private Secretary.

The Clerk at the Table,
House of Commons.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61803

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47

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

17th March, 1947.

Dear Mr. Lindsay,

I write to say that the
Minister of State (Foreign Office)
will reply to your question for
Wednesday next addressed to the
Secretary of State for the Colonies
about the use of U.M.R.R.A. as a
cover for the organisation of illegal
immigrants to Palestine.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) D. Smith.

Private Secretary.

Martin Lindsay, Esq., DSO., MP.

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		1		2	

Reference: **FO 371 / 61803**

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EASTERN

48

Parliamentary Question

* 88. Mr. Martin Lindsay,—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he is satisfied that U.N.R.R.A. is not being used as a cover for the organisation of illegal immigrants to Palestine. [*Wednesday 19th March.*]

S. Guinness

F.O. ARE NOT ASKED TO ADVISE.

Lindsay

Please attach reply.

1	2	3	4	5	6

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61803



Downing Street,
S.W.1.

*put with P.Q.
Arzt reply submitted
13 Mar. 18
49*

76021/P.Q.1/47

17th March, 1947.

Dear Beith,

INDEXED

We have the following comments on the question about the use of U.N.R.R.A. as a cover for illegal immigration which has been transferred to the Minister of State.

The matter was last referred to officially in H.M.G. statement of the 13th August at the time of the decision to send immigrants to Cyprus. This statement included the following sentence: "The food, clothing, medical supplies and transport provided by U.N.R.R.A. and other agencies for the relief of suffering in Europe are diverted to the maintenance of what is openly described as 'the underground railway to Palestine.'" The intention of this reference was to open the eyes of U.N.R.R.A. officials to the fact that they were giving help to persons for whom U.N.R.R.A. help was never intended and who are not displaced persons within U.N.R.R.A.'s terms of reference. There have, however, been one or two instances where U.N.R.R.A. officials have been proved to have helped illegal Jewish immigration, e.g. Dr. Ritter in Greece. The whole difficulty is that relief organisations can plead that it is almost impossible to distinguish genuine D.Ps. and people who have been incited to leave their native countries for Palestine.

It seems to us, therefore, that we cannot do much more than reply that U.N.R.R.A. supplies have been used to clothe and feed illegal immigrants and to provision illegal

/immigrant

J.G.S. BEITH, ESQ.

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Reference: **FO 371 / 61803**

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immigrant ships; but there is no evidence that in general these supplies have not been furnished in good faith to meet the needs of persons who have every appearance of being legitimate D.Ps. In one or two cases it has been possible to show the complicity of minor U.N.R.R.A. officials and disciplinary action has been taken. U.N.R.R.A. are asked to make investigations every time it has seemed to H.M.G. that cases of abuse have occurred.

I should like again to draw your attention to an advertisement which appeared in the "New York Post" on the 7th October, 1946 (Sherr's letter to you S.F.215/16/B.3A of the 13th November refers), in which the name of Fiorello La Guardia appears as honorary sponsor to an appeal for funds to support illegal immigration. I believe that at this time La Guardia was still Director General of U.N.R.R.A. and, if this is so, I should have thought the fact might have been stressed, either in the question itself or in a supplementary.

You will recall that General Morgan was quite convinced that U.N.R.R.A. funds had been used to assist illegal immigration, but that it was impossible to bring facts home in specific cases and that even if proof were brought U.N.R.R.A.'s disciplinary powers were very small.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Chadwick, M.I.5.

Yours sincerely,

John Thorne

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61803

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E

E 2598 51

26 MARK

1947

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E2598/48/31

P.O.

Command

26. Mar 1947

Arrest of Immigrant Ships.

Palatine tel 601 of Mar 20
states it is essential to board ships outside
3 mile limit to enable boarding party
to take complete charge. Suggests extension
to 12 mile limit but as law stands criminal
proceedings cannot be taken against crew
of ships arrested outside the limit.

Last Paper.

2493

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

JCB/29/3

(Index)

R/S
9/7/48

Next Paper.

E2625

(Minutes.)

The Adm. writ have this

Mr Beeky H.B. 28/3

B. Mar 26

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1	2	3	4	5	6

References:-

FO 371 / 61803

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INWARD TELEGRAM

*K 52
16A
enter*

This document must be paraphrased if the communication of its contents to any person outside Government Service is authorised.

Cypher

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 20th March, 1947.
R. 20th " " 15.55 hrs.

E 2598
26 MAR

IMPORTANT

No.601 Top Secret.

Addressed S. of S.
Repeated C.-in-C. Mediterranean No.359.

After discussion with the Commodore, it is clear to me that it is essential to board outside territorial waters illegal immigrant ships of the faster types now expected. This has already been necessary in several cases. Boarding within territorial waters does not give the boarding party time to take charge of the ship before she is beached, in which event the naval party on board is isolated.

2. As the law stands the Attorney General advises that, if ships are arrested outside territorial waters, criminal proceedings cannot be taken against the Master and crew and, although in such cases the Court of Appeal in (corrupt group) case has held that the ship can be forfeited. the case has been taken to the Privy Council and legality of the forfeiture is not, therefore, finally established. I am further advised that we cannot safely legislate locally to enable ships to be boarded outside territorial waters and to provide for prosecution of Masters and crews for things done outside territorial waters. In this connection, I have considered the arguments in your savingram No.95. It would be most undesirable politically that local legislation should be enacted which might be successfully challenged and, from an international point of view, it would clearly be preferable that any such legislation should be sponsored in clear terms by H.M.G.
rather/

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RECEIVED IN O.B.

MAR 27 1947

SENT TO

26 MAR 1947

Part 2.

rather than left to a Mandatory Government. The Attorney General advises, however, that it may be possible in view of Section 11 of Foreign Jurisdiction Act of (2 corrupt groups ?1890) for the necessary power to legislate extra territorially in respect of particular matters such as customs, shipping and immigration, to be conferred on this Government by (?Orders in Council).

3. I should, therefore, be glad if you would consider urgently how this power may best be given. Extension of the present 3 mile limit to not less than 12 miles would be necessary. Alternatives are to continue to board ships on the high seas which H.M.G. have declined to approve with consequent inability to prosecute Master and crew and possible failure to secure forfeiture of ships apart from general objections to continuing these illegal acts, or not to board ships at all in which case they may run themselves aground and we will have to face possible loss of life, escape of immigrants into Palestine and difficulties we have recently experienced in moving immigrants about Palestine after they have landed from agrounded ships.

Distributed to:-

MS.25
 Secretary of State
 Sir T. Lloyd
 Mr. I. Thomas
 Mr. Martin
 Sir D. Harris
 Mr. Trafford Smith
 Mr. Mathieson
 Mr. Higham
 Mr. Eastwood
 Mr. Poynton
 Mr. Bennett
 Mr. Bigg
 Mr. Roberts-Wray
 Admiralty
 Foreign Office

- Mr. G.C.B. Dodds.
 - Mr. Beith.

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61803

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E

E 2625

54

PALESTINE

26 MARK

Registry Number } E 2625/48/31
 TELEGRAM FROM
 No. Lord Eversfield
 Dated Washington
 Received in Registry } 1786
 24 MAR 1948
 26

Illegal Immigration
 Refer to Lt to Belgrade 613 (E 2248/48/9)
 Also, if you are not already taking such action
 you may care to consider sending instructions
 to British missions concerned in the Western
 Hemisphere with a view to preventing issue
 of passports or visas for fictitious destinations
 and registration of ships for use in this
 traffic.

Last Paper.

2598

(Minutes.)

See E 2644/48 2 minute

29 Mar 48

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

JCM/2/4

(Index)

JCM/2/4

Next Paper.

2626

32008 F.O.P.

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Reference: **FO 371** / **61803**

E 2625

Gen 55

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel
No: 1786

D. 4.34.p.m. 24th March 1947

24th March 1947

R.11.50.p.m. 24th March 1947

X:X:X:

Confidential.

Ag. 2248/48/319

Your telegram 613 to Belgrade.

Jewish illegal immigration.

If you are not already taking such action, you may care to consider sending instructions to British Missions concerned in the Western hemisphere with a view more particularly to preventing issue of passports or visas for fictitious destinations and registration of ships for use in this traffic.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61803

MAR 26 1947

1947

Palestine

EASTERN

E2632

/G

56

27 MAR 1947

40

31

E2632/48/9

Illegal immigrant ships

COB(ME) 137

Report's conclusions of
Defence Ctee after consideration
of consequences of probable
increase of illegal immigrant
ships attempting to reach
Palestine.

dated 14 March

Received 26 March

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

E2445

Mr Bealey #B.29/3

13 Mar. 28

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

of 31/3

W.H.

Next Paper.

E2644

39471 F.O.P.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61803

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E 48
Head of Section 57
Entered from
E2632

24 MAR 1947

TOP SECRET CYPHER TELEGRAM

DESPATCHED BY O.T.P.

OZ 646 MAR 1947 -
TOO 141630Z
TOD 141850Z

IMPORTANT:

FROM : Ministry of Defence, London
TO : G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

COS(ME) 137

14th March, 1947.

From Chiefs of Staff for Commaners-in-Chief.

1. Defence Committee have considered consequences of probable increase in near future of illegal immigrant ships attempting to reach Palestine.

2. Their conclusions and directions were as follows:-

(a) Reaffirmed their view that all possible steps should be taken to stop illegal immigration into Palestine.

(b) There will be no change for the present in the monthly Jewish immigration quota into Palestine.

(c) Foreign Office to arrange, as a matter of urgency, for preparation of plans to counter illegal immigration traffic,

(i) by a tightening of control at those European ports from which illegal immigrants seek to embark for Palestine; and

(ii) by returning to their ports of embarkation, or diverting to the destinations for which they have visas at the time of embarkation, any illegal immigrants who evade control. Plans to include measures to apply strong diplomatic pressure on foreign Governments who allow illegal immigrants to embark from their territory or who furnish illegal immigrants with passports and visas.

(d) Foreign Office, in consultation with Colonial Office, to ask Secretary General of United Nations to issue an appeal to all member Nations to co-operate with His Majesty's Government in their ports to prevent problem of Palestine from being aggravated by further illegal immigration.

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References:-

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- 2 -

(e) War Office, in consultation with Colonial Office, to take such steps as are possible to increase capacity of deportation camps in Cyprus.

(f) Colonial Office, in consultation with War Office, Admiralty and Ministry of Transport, to prepare plans for transporting to and detaining in other areas (e.g. East Africa) any illegal immigrants in excess of number for which accommodation can be found in Cyprus.

(g) Chiefs of Staff to put in hand the necessary arrangements for reinforcement of Naval, Military and Air Forces in Palestine to extent necessary to deal with interception, control and deportation of expected increase in illegal immigrants.

3. Above is for your information. With regard to conclusion (g) Service Ministries will communicate direct with their own Commanders-in-Chief.

4. As regards shipping for transportation of illegal immigrants to Cyprus so long as its capacity remains unfilled, we assume you will be forwarding your recommendations as forecast in telegram No. 081823/March from Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean afloat to Admiralty.

CIRCULATION:

T00 141630Z

D.C.O.R.
Foreign Office
First Sea Lord
Message Control, W.O.
A.M.C.S.
Secretary of State for Colonies
Minister of Transport.

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Reference:

FO 371 / 61803

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E

E 2626

1947

26

Registry Number } E 2626/48/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Lord Evershed

Dated

1802

Received in Registry

Washington

24. Mar 1947
26 - -

Illegal Immigration, U.S. Acceptance.
Refer. U.K. tel Moscow (d), 169, (E 2390/48/9)
Discusses conversation with Acheson, re financial
aid from U.S. for illegal immigration
Acheson said with many apologies that although
State Dept were still trying to find a means
of helping, they were very little that they could
do about it.

Last Paper (471)

26 25

(Minutes.)

Copy to
Min.
Adm.)

References.

(Print.)

Mr Beelen ^{223 29/3}

Mr. Smith
Mar 29

(How disposed of.)

8) C.O. (Mr. Higham)

M. 1.5 (Mr. Chadwick)

Admty (Mr. Dodds)

March 3

A completely negative response from the State Dept.
This should have been relayed to

Moscow, but it should in any case have reached the
S/S in his regular telegram distribution.
Vt Mr Merrick

Dpt. Mr. Merrick Major

U.K. Del

Moscow.

see 1 April.

(Action completed.)

92/114

(Index.)

9/14/48

Next Paper.

2909

E 2632

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References: FO 371 / 61803

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E 2629

60

26 MAR

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Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Lord Inverchapel
No: 1802

D. 8.57.p.m. 24th March 1947

24th March 1947

R. 3.10.a.m. 25th March 1947

X:X:X:

2390/28/2 s/h

Secret.

United Kingdom Delegation Moscow telegram 169
to you: Assistance in United States for illegal
immigration into Palestine.

In course of conversation with Mr. Acheson on 19th March I had already taken opportunity to remind him of our numerous communications about advertisements in the newspapers and to hand him a summary of our information concerning the fitting out of ships in the United States for this traffic. I also emphasised that illegal immigration was very largely dependent upon financial support from the United States and pointed out that it was a political manoeuvre to force the hand of the mandatory power and to prejudice the decision of the United Nations. Acheson said with many apologies that although the State Department were still trying to find a means of helping us, there was very little they could do about it. It was for this reason that they had been obliged to leave our representations about advertisements unanswered.

2. On receipt of telegram under reference I saw Acheson again on 21st March and told him of the Secretary of State's instructions; but I got nothing more out of him.

3. It seems clear that the State Department will stick close to the arguments advanced by Mr. Byrnes in January (my telegram 43), and that they are unable or owing to Zionist pressure, unwilling to use their influence to discourage such activities, even though they know that these add greatly to the gravity of a situation already difficult enough. We are taking very informal soundings to see whether there are any other means open to us (under State laws for example) of preventing or at least delaying the despatch of ships from this country. We are also putting pressure upon the Honduranian Ambassador. Should any action appear possible as a result of these soundings I shall of course consult you before embarking upon it.

MAR 26 1947

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Registry
No. E 2626/48/31

OUT FILE

61

My dear John,
J O C 12th April

Draft. Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Open

JVP. E.C.
The American Mission
Moscow
(U.K. Delegation)

from
R
H.

With reference to your tel: no: 169
dated of the 18th March on the
subject of representations to the State
Dept. about illegal immigration,
we notice that Washington's reply
(their tel: no: 1802 of the 24th March)
was not repeated to you. The
P.S. has probably seen it in his
distribution, but in case he has not
I enclose another copy herein.

R
H
2/4

Yours ever
(Sgd.) P. Ganan.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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OUT FILE 62
FOREIGN OFFICE
S.W.1.

1st April, 1947.

(E 2626/48/31)

RESTRICTED

My dear John,

With reference to your telegram No. 169 of the 18th March on the subject of representations to the State Department about illegal immigration, we notice that Washington's reply (their telegram No. 1802 of the 24th March) was not repeated to you. The Secretary of State has probably seen it in his distribution, but in case he has not I enclose another copy herein.

Yours ever

(Sgd) (P. Garran)

J.P.E.C. Henniker-Major, Esq., M.C.,
United Kingdom Delegation,
Moscow.

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E26 24/48/31

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FO 371 / 61803

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E

E 2668

63

247

27 MAR

Registry Number

E 2667/48/31

FROM

Duff Cooper

No.

Paris

Dated

27th

Received in Registry

24 Mar 1947
27 - -

Illegal Immigration through France
Refer to file H.35 (E 2248/48/5) Enclosed
copy of note which Duff Cooper handed to
M. Chauvel, in the absence of the Foreign
Minister, on the Illegal Immigration Question
also carried out request in Berlin let 26,
re granting French visas to Jews proceeding
to Palestine with permission of British Authorities.

Last Paper.

2674

References.

2535/651/31

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) C.O. (Mr. Graham)
 M.I.S. (Mr. Scheer)
 March 31

(Minutes.)

Copies sent to Co. & M.I.S.

The papers have been sent to the Minister of State's office, with a minute to be addressed by the Minister of State to the Prime Minister, in accordance with the recommendation of the Defence Committee. This minute is mainly concerned with the line we should take with the French authorities when we come to discuss with them measures for the control of illegal Jewish immigration through France. As soon as the Prime Minister has approved the recommendations in the Minister of State's minute, we should presumably send a copy to the Embassy at Paris: at the same time, we should, I think, instruct Mr. Duff Cooper to continue to press the French Government strongly in this matter and in particular to insist on fixing a date for discussions with them (which does not seem to have been mentioned at the Ambassador's talk with M. Chauvel). I think we might aim at Monday, April 14th, as a suitable date for opening discussions. I doubt whether, in view of the Easter week-end intervening, we are likely to get this fixed up with the French before, and we cannot initiate action until our minute has the approval of the Prime Minister.

It is a pity that Mr. Duff Cooper should have linked illegal immigration with legal immigration at his meeting with M. Chauvel. From a psychological point of view it was surely unwise to couple the burning question of illegal transit through France with a routine request that 400 Jews with proper visas for Palestine should be permitted to enter the country in transit. It is somewhat ironical that the French should be letting through the illegal, and holding up the legal, immigrants.

(Action completed.)

[Signature]

(Index.)

[Signature]

Next Paper.

2668

Mr Beeth H.3. 1/4
 Western Dept.

J.G.S. Beith
 (J.G.S. Beith)

31st March, 1947.

1	2	3	4	5	6
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Reference: FO 371/61803					

64

E 2607
27 MAR

The British Embassy, PARIS.

24th March, 1947.

No. 274 ✓

2248/48/9
E/green.
Spur attached

Sir,

With reference to your telegram No. 435 of the 15th March, I have the honour to report that, in the absence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I delivered to Monsieur Chauvel this morning a note on the question of illegal emigration through France, copy of which I enclose. I said that we were under the impression that while the Ministry for Foreign Affairs were willing to help us in this matter, the Ministry of the Interior were less well disposed.

22535

2. At the same time, I carried out the request contained in Berlin telegram No. 26, and asked that instructions should be sent to the French Consul at Dusseldorf to grant French visas to the Jews who were proceeding from Germany to Palestine with the permission of the British authorities. Monsieur Chauvel said that he was well aware of the importance which we attached to this question, and that he had himself recently mentioned it to Monsieur Teitgen, and had suggested that the latter should bring it up before the Council of Ministers in order to ensure co-ordination between the various Government Departments concerned. He also undertook to send the instructions to the French Consular authorities in Dusseldorf.

I have the honour to be, with great truth and respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Duff Cooper

The Rt. Hon. C.R. Attlee, C.H., M.P.,
The Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

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(72/109/47)

British Embassy,

No. 283.

Paris

21st March 1947.

Monsieur le Ministre,

I have the honour, under instructions from my Government, to draw Your Excellency's attention to the movement through France of Jewish illegal immigrants and their departure for Palestine from French ports.

2. In recent months His Majesty's Embassy have had occasion to make repeated representations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on this matter and have communicated in advance full information with regard to many shiploads of illegal immigrants who have eventually found their way from France to Palestine. Although these representations have been most sympathetically received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs no effective action has been taken by the French Government to stop such traffic. In connexion with the talks which took place in January between representatives of the French, United States and United Kingdom Governments, the United Kingdom representatives made it clear that this traffic through France was highly embarrassing to His Majesty's Government and the Government of Palestine in their exercise of the mandate. In fact, the agreement reached on this occasion dealt only with the movement of persons out of Germany and subsequent informal discussion of the traffic through and out of France led to no practical result.

3. In the meantime, sailings of illegal immigrant vessels have recently increased. For instance, the "Merica" arrived in Palestine on February 8th with 650 passengers from Sète. The "San Miguel" arrived in Palestine on February 17th with 800 passengers from Sète. The "Abril" arrived in Palestine on March 9th with 600 Jews from Port de Buc. Moreover, it is little more than three months since the "San Dimitrio" arrived in Palestine with 1,279 Jews from the French camp at La Ciotat. Reliable reports which have reached His Majesty's Government now suggest that the organisers of this traffic intend to force the pace of the operation and to ship upwards of 15,000 Jews during the next two or three months, thus forestalling eventual recommendations by the United Nations. ~~Mar-~~ seilles is now a principal headquarters for the traffic and the following vessels are known to be in readiness there:

"Guardian"	:	Honduras Registry
"Archangelos"	:	Greek Registry
"San Filipo"	:	Panamanian Registry (withdrawn).

4. There is abundant proof that the illegal Jewish immigrant traffic is not a spontaneous exodus of refugees, but a carefully organised Zionist campaign designed to force the hand of His Majesty's Government and to increase the proportion of Jewish population in Palestine. In permitting this traffic the French Government have no doubt been actuated by humanitarian considerations, but they have thereby been led, in the view/

His Excellency,
Monsieur Georges Bidault,
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

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Reference: FO 371 / 61803

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66
END

view of His Majesty's Government, into active support of the Zionist cause and are most gravely embarrassing the attempts of His Majesty's Government to reach a fair solution of the Palestine problem.

5. His Majesty's Government cannot but deplore the failure of the French Government to co-operate more fully with them on a matter which is of such vital importance to world peace and to the strenuous efforts which they are making in the general interest to find a pacific and lasting solution to the Palestine problem; and they invite the French Government to take urgent and effective steps without delay to prevent further departures of illegal immigrants from French ports. His Majesty's Government attach the utmost importance to an early introduction of satisfactory methods to deal with this problem and confidently expect the full co-operation of the French Government in the spirit of the newly signed Alliance. His Majesty's Government would be glad if the French Government would agree to enter into immediate conversations with them in order to work out methods of controlling this traffic.

I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration,

Monsieur le Ministre,

Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

DUFF COOPER

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				2	

Reference:

FO 371 / 61803

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